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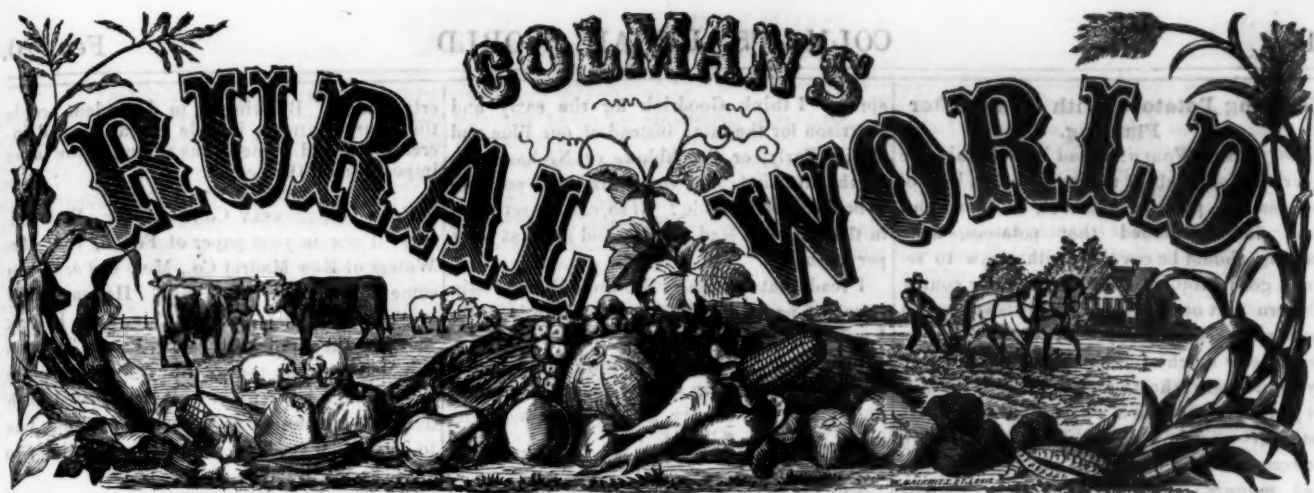
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VOL. XXII.

ST. LOUIS, MO., FEBRUARY 20, 1869.

No. 8.

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[Written for Colman's Rural World.]

PREPARE FOR SPRING.

The season is fast approaching in which we must commence our farm operations for the spring and summer. The prudent farmer has given his corn and oats land a good plowing and manuring the past fall, and thus he saves time and labor in the spring. He is careful that every necessary want is supplied; that all his tools are in order; that his work animals are well cared for, and have strength to go at their work with good feeling. There is nothing better than to have the horse or ox in good condition at the commencement of work time: if they are thin and poor, it is a drag, both to them and their master, to work.

Now is the time to prepare for all the summer's work; not only fix for plowing in the spring, but for planting and cultivating; select your seed corn; rig up your cultivator and harrow. Look as far ahead as harvest, and see that your mower and reaper is in trim; and, if you have none, why, you had better procure one, for it will save you a great deal of hard labor in the hottest time of the year. Have a good pasture for your work animals when they are idle. Green grass is what their nature demands in the summer season, and we should look well to our facilities for accommodating them with it. Have your corn plowed clean and loose by the time your grass and wheat crops demand your attention, then you can have time to perform that labor with care and prudence, which it always requires. E. W. PORTER.

REMARKS—Most excellent and timely advice! We hope our readers will profit by it. We shall be glad to have you furnish similar hints regularly for the *Rural World*.

FROM LAFAYETTE CO., MO.—Eds. *Rural World*:

The weather has been very broken. Old farmers say it has not rained so much since 1859—the roads are almost impassable. A larger area of wheat was sown last fall in this (Washington) township, than ever before. A good lot of it is above ground—even that sown by the drill has not escaped. Hay is scarce, and bringing good prices. Corn crop very light—\$2.50 to \$3 per barrel. We all like your paper better than any we have seen (being so well suited to this State)—although we take two others. H.D.M. February 9th, 1869.

[Written for Colman's Rural World.]

BEST BREED OF HOGS.

Inquiry is made in the *Rural World* of Jan. 30th, by "Young Farmer," for the experience of those who have had opportunities of trying the various breeds of hogs. He seems to have a proper appreciation of the great advantages of a good breed. The writer has bred and fattened the following breeds of hogs, and found some of all sorts good, but not uniform in their fattening tendencies: First trial, with the China; then the Woburn or Bedford, followed by the Berkshire, Yorkshire, Chester, and lastly the Essex; the latter fully answering all my wishes as a perfect animal. Their early maturity, fine form, aptitude to take on flesh, quick growth, large, well-developed hams, the sows prolific and good nurses—these qualities I consider the most desirable in swine. If every farmer in Missouri had no swine on their farms but "Essex," it would save hundreds of thousands of dollars to the State, by the saving of corn and other food.

One other recommendation, the Essex hog possesses freedom from cutaneous diseases, such as mange and measles. All black breeds of swine are not so subject to skin diseases as the white, and are altogether more hardy than white hogs.

Having read an article written by that able and well-informed agricultural writer, Sanford Howard, on the merits of Essex hogs, I lost no time in ordering some of them from New Jersey and New York, and they have more than filled my expectations.

While on the subject of the hog, let me advise the readers of the *Rural World* to keep stone coal within reach of their hogs—ashes from the grate are preferred—but, as all do not burn coal generally, they must be obtained on purpose, and should be given with salt. I never lose a hog nor have any sick ones, although they are frequently dying in this vicinity. J. S., Florissant Valley, Mo.

The Berkshire (Mass.) Agricultural Society has voted to offer no more premiums for trotting horses.

At Pittsfield, Dec., S. M. Foss killed a spring pig last week, 284 days old, which weighed, when dressed, 408 pounds.

Covering Potatoes With Straw After Planting.

EDS. RURAL WORLD: I read in your valuable paper very often about raising potatoes, kind of seed, time of planting, etc.; but, if I am right, never find mentioned that potatoes, after planting, should be covered with straw to secure a good crop. In that part of our county (Eastern part of Madison, Ill.) it is very often done with good success. As a general rule, farmers sow much of their land—too much in my opinion—in wheat: and so, of course, they get generally not much wheat, as was the case last year—any how plenty of straw: although the farmers begin to find out already that they need manure; and, in consequence thereof, have commenced hauling manure freely into their almost exhausted fields. Straw is still burned off in the fields (a ruinous practice); so it was the case last fall—mostly on new prairie land, just brought under cultivation.

Now, up to this time, our farmers did not pay much attention to raising a good potato crop, and when they covered their potato patch with straw, they did it just as much with the intention to save the trouble of hoeing and cultivating the potatoes, as in expectation of a good crop. They never pay much regard to the time of planting; they plant their potatoes in spring, just when it is most convenient to them, in patches of one-eighth to perhaps one acre at most. They are rather careless in trying to obtain good seed and new varieties; nevertheless, the farmers who did cover their potatoes with straw, raised better and more potatoes, especially those who were particular in preparing the land and selecting good seed.

To raise a good crop of potatoes, I am of the opinion that the potatoes ought to be planted either very early (March) or rather late in the spring—about the last of May or first of June. For covering the potatoes with straw—any rotten straw will do. The ground must be dry and high—wet, flat land, won't do—and well plowed and harrowed; poorer land should be lightly manured. The furrows should be very shallow and near together, say two feet or less; the potatoes may be planted in the furrows at the common distance and covered very lightly with the hoe or a small corn plow. As soon as the potatoes make their appearance above ground so that they can be seen all along the rows, they should be covered with straw to the depth of about sixteen to twenty inches, and as even as possible. I believe that to harrow the potatoes lightly before covering them with straw would be beneficial. Very late potatoes might be planted and covered a little deeper. Nothing else has to be done then until fall; then, of course, to dig the potatoes, the straw has first to be removed. Some plant their potatoes in this way: When the ground is ready for planting, they walk over the patch and drop the potatoes as near together as they desire, and step on them lightly with one foot in walking, and then haul straw right away to cover the potatoes. But I prefer the first method. New land, the first year in cultivation and planted to potatoes, I would not cover with straw.

I wish to plant a new kind of potatoes next

spring. I think Goodrich for the early and Harrison for the late: instead of our Blue and White Early, or Peachblows or Neshannocks for the late kind. Do you think these potatoes to be the most reliable? If so, can we get them in the St. Louis seed stores; and at what price per bushel?

I read that article—"Rolling Wheat"—in your last paper, but I have no faith in it at all. I would like to hear more about it anyhow.—Wheat, in our part of the country looks tolerably well. Hogs very scarce. Stock hogs high in price. Corn hardly sufficient for home demand and no surplus. B.

Saline, Ill., Jan. 20th.

REMARKS—Goodrich may do well with you; we should try the Early York or Buckeye: Harrison, for late, is good. Try a few of the Rose—see advertisements.

FROM ST. CHARLES CO., MO.—Eds. Rural: Wheat is looking very well. All are complaining of the scarcity of money; but I think the trouble is, we have too long neglected the farm—have consumed more than we have produced—have imported too much, and not exported accordingly. I mean in this particular locality. Land rents here (40 miles from St. Louis) at \$2 per acre, and yet it will produce by good cultivation forty bushels of oats or corn, and twenty of wheat, per acre—and that without manure or clover. Improved lands have sold within one mile of Wentzville and near the R. R., at \$20 to \$40 per acre during the last six months. Manuring and clovering prove very lasting in their benefits here, as we have a clay sub-soil, so that it retains the manure. B.F.W.

LARGE FARMS.

Mr. M. L. Sullivan, formerly of Columbus, Ohio, has sold his farm of 23,000 acres, in Champaign county, Illinois, to Mr. John Alexander, and moved upon one of 40,000 acres, in Ford county. Mr. Alexander keeps 4,000 head of cattle, and last season raised 5,000 acres of corn.

Another large farm of 26,000 acres, owned by Messrs. Fowler & Earl, of Lafayette, Indiana, is known as Hickory Grove, in Benton county. Five thousand head of cattle are kept on this farm.

It is almost exclusively prairie, but extensive groves are being planted.

The Summer Farm, adjoining Hickory Grove, contains 12,000 acres, devoted chiefly to stock growing.

The Boswell Farm, also adjoining Hickory Grove, contains 8,000 acres, on which there is a native forest, called Forest Grove.

In all directions from Lafayette, there are many farms ranging from 1,000 to 3,000 acres.

These three farms of Benton county comprise 46,000 acres—or nearly two whole townships. They are owned by five men, two of whom do not reside in the county. On this immense tract there are but two independent citizens, while there are as many poor dependent people as the owners employ thereon.

Were this land owned and occupied by as many persons as there are quarter sections in the tract, Benton county would have 287 more of independent citizens, with an additional independent farm population of 1,435. Besides this, there would be an increase of about 500 town population in the county.

There would also be 287 sets of farm buildings, &c., instead of four, and by so much would the amount on the tax duplicate be increased, thus reducing the rate of taxation to the small prop-

erty-holders. By bringing in dependent people these large farmers impede education, and increase vice and crime—thus adding to the taxes imposed upon the people.

FROM MONTGOMERY CO., ILL.—Mr. N. J. Colman: I see in your paper of Feb. 6, that Mr. Waters of New Madrid Co., Mo., has sent you some White Watermelon seed. He says they are large and long, the rind thin, &c. I think they are the same kind I raised some 25 years ago, but by some means lost the seed. Since that time I have never seen nor tasted such delicious melons as they were. I would like to get a few seed of him, if he has them to spare at a reasonable price.

It is now (Feb. 8th) raining again; yesterday the sun shone beautifully—but, oh, the mud! I think the peaches are mostly killed, but that other fruit is safe. We are having hard weather on wheat now, though it looks well—that is, the early sown; late, or very late, has gone up—at least it is coming up by the roots. Corn is scarce, compared with other seasons. A neighbor bought some 800 bushels in the crib at about 40 cents per bushel. Potatoes scarce—our produce merchants having to send to Chicago or St. Louis for their supply. A. S. A.

Litchfield, Ill.

FROM NEW FRANKLIN, MO.—Col. Colman: I am satisfied that our apples in this locality were destroyed last year by insects, the habits of which the farmers know little or nothing. Our wheat is injured to some extent by the wet weather being followed by such hard freezes.

Howard Co., Feb. 2.

W. H. M.

FROM CASS CO., MO.—Eds. Rural World: We have not had much very cold weather—but the last month (January) has been exceedingly disagreeable—damp, chilly, muddy, rainy—no heavy rains, but slight snows.

You noticed an inquiry concerning the analysis of barren prairie soil. There have been, heretofore, no analyses of such soil either in Missouri or Illinois. Soil was collected last summer from that known as "scalds," on the prairies, and is now in possession of the State Geologist of Illinois. Similar spots are unknown in Missouri—although some of our prairies are poor. G. C. BROADHEAD, Pleasant Hill, Feb. 8.

FROM CLAY CO., ILL.—Eds. Rural World: I wish some of your readers would inform me through the Rural World what kind of a country it is about Linn Creek and Camden and Morgan counties, Mo.? How does the land lay—is it a good wheat country—what does land (raw and improved) sell for? I have a good farm to sell—80 acres prairie and 20 timber—at \$25 per acre. We have a good country here; fine rolling prairies. Clay county cannot be beat in southern Illinois for fine lands, and is fast settling up. I would say to any person desiring to locate in southern Illinois—come to Clay county; you can't do better. We have had a nice winter here until the last few days, which have been very wet. E. C. T.

The American Farmer (Baltimore) strongly advocates the introduction of sheep for the surplus lands of Virginia.

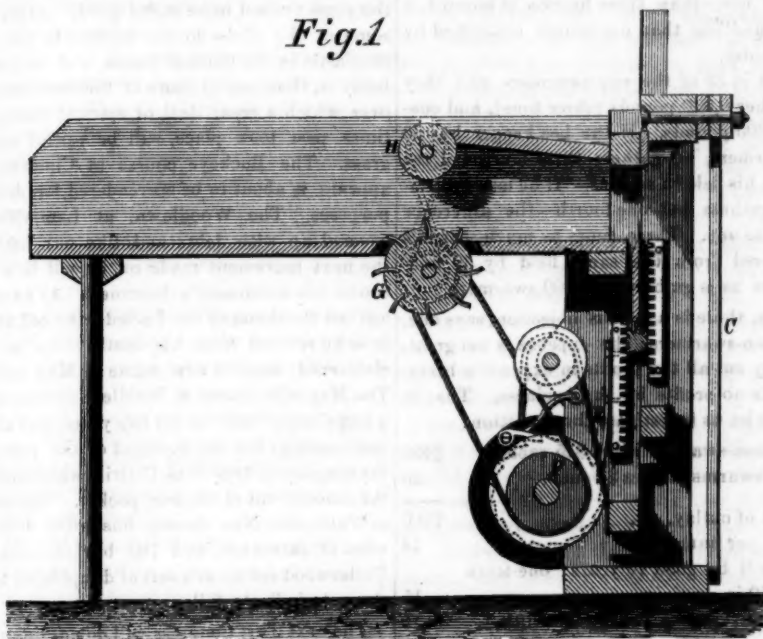
IMPROVEMENT IN STRAW-CUTTING MACHINES.

The accompanying engravings represent in section the parts of a new style of machine designed for cutting straw and hay for the feeding of stock. Instead of rotary knives the edges of which meet each other and thus sever the straw, or one rotating cutter bearing on a yielding roller, or even a reciprocating knife passing by a fixed knife, this machine has two reciprocating cutters, each moving in opposite directions simultaneously, and so set as to cut like shears, and with a drawing motion. The feeding of the material is also automatic, thus obviating the danger of severed or lacerated fingers. The machine is quite simple in construction, and, as

seen from the foregoing statement, easy and exact in operation.

Fig. 1 is a vertical longitudinal section; Fig. 2, a transverse vertical section; and Fig. 3, a view of the knife and hand lever. The two front uprights are double grooved to receive the frames that carry the knives. These are fixed rigidly, at opposite angles, in their frames. Each of these frames has on its inner surface a toothed rack, as seen in Fig. 1, the teeth of which mesh with those of a pinion, thus insuring simultaneous reciprocating motion to the knives, seen plainly in Figs. 2 and 3 at A. The hand lever, B, is pivoted to the upper knife, its end connect-

Fig.1



AMBRUN'S PATENT DOUBLE-ACTING STRAW CUTTER.

Fig.2

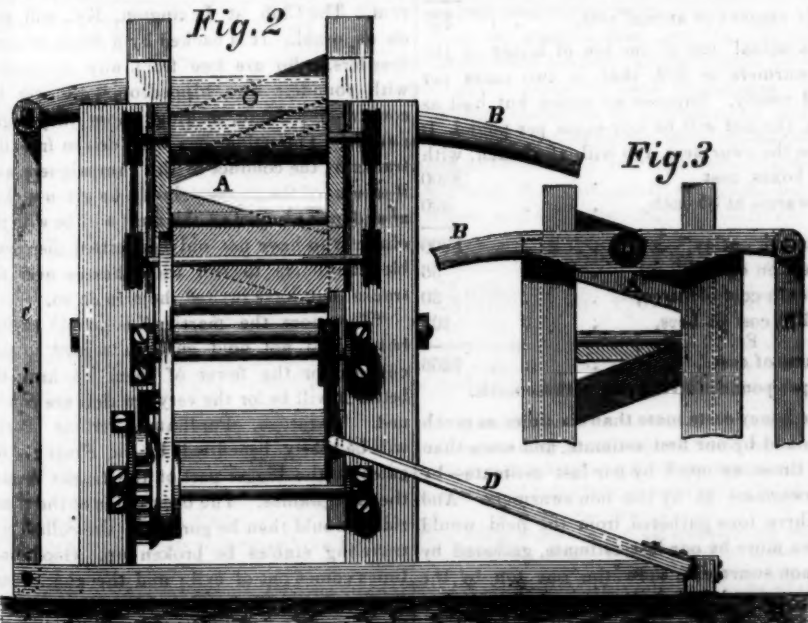
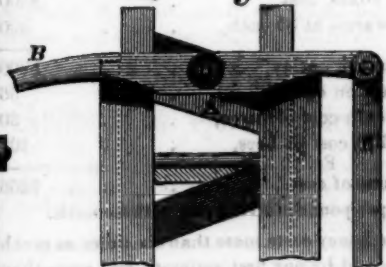


Fig.3



ing with the top of an upright oscillating bar, C, pivoted to the base of the frame. A treadle, D, pivoted at the end of the base has a cord, or band, attached to its free end that passes over a truck or pulley, and having its other end secured to the lower or rising frame. In cutting, the operator uses the hand lever and also this treadle, thereby giving great impetus, or force, to the ascending, as well as the descending knife.

The ascending knife has attached to its framing a spring, E, Fig. 1, that on its descent engages with the teeth of a ratchet, having fixed on the same shaft a pulley, F, from which a band, or belt, connects with the feed roller, G, which is either toothed or corrugated. From this feed roller, or from a pulley on its shaft, an elastic band passes to a similar pulley on a roller, H, suspended on the end of a pivoted lever.

This roller is intended to compress the straw to be cut on the surface of the feed roller. This is operated automatically by the spring strap, E, the ratchet, F, and its pawl. These appliances constitute the feed of the machine.

Invented by Julius Ambrun, Leavenworth City, Kansas, and patented through the Scientific American Patent Agency, Nov. 3, 1868. To the inventor all communications for further information should be addressed, as above.

The Dairy.

GOOD BUTTER IN WINTER.

When you strain the milk, morning and night, set the pan upon the stove and strain the milk into it, allowing it to remain there five minutes—not long enough to skin over. Then set the pan in a buttery where the warmth from the kitchen reaches. No cream must stand on the pan over thirty-six hours. After each skimming, stir up from the bottom of the cream-jar. When you put in the first cream, add a heaping tablespoon of sugar. This prevents it turning bitter; but if it does have a bitter, acid taste, before churning add one teaspoonful of saltpetre, finely powdered, to every two quarts of cream. This entirely absorbs all disagreeable flavor, which utterly ruins butter.

The butter-maker at this season of the year, must use both saltpetre and sugar, besides the requisite quantity of salt, and the butter will be greatly improved. If not so fortunate as to possess cows of the Alderney breed, coloring materials must be added. Carrots are the best adapted to this purpose. Grate off the bright orange exterior of the carrot, and if four pounds of butter are to be made, use the rind of two carrots. Boil in half a pint of milk, and when the cream is in the churn, turn in, straining out the carrot through a gravy strainer. This gives a fine color, and also imparts a sweet flavor, not objectionable to the most fastidious palate.

It is a great annoyance to the butter-maker to churn a small quantity in a churn adapted to making ten pounds; yet one desires, at the high price butter now commands, to make all the butter possible. To those we would recommend our way of procedure. The night before churning, the jar containing the cream is set in the kitchen near the stove, where it will receive its warmth in the morning. When ready to churn, the scalded carrot milk may be turned in.—Then dip in a small thermometer. If it marks 56 degrees, it is ready to churn; if not, set in a pan of hot water and stir rapidly with a wooden cake stirrer. If it thickens rapidly, keep in the water; in ten minutes it will be too thick to stir easily; but persevere, for in a few minutes the globules containing the butter will break, the buttermilk will flow forth, and in fifteen minutes from commencing to stir the cream, the golden butter rewards your sight. Now set into a cool room for ten minutes, then pour off the buttermilk, take out the butter, and work with butter paddle and hands. If the cream has a bitter taste you should add the saltpetre before churning. If intending to use the butter directly, you need not add the sugar, but if it be laid down for future use, add a teaspoonful to a quart; use the best of white granulated sugar.

There is no need of churning one hour or two hours; butter will only gather when the cream has reached a certain temperature. At 60 degrees Fahrenheit the globules containing the butter burst. Beating it increases its temperature, so it must not be at 60 degrees when you commence; for be it more or be it less, there is no hope of butter. This is a well-established fact, and if our dairy women will only understand it, they will not need to use up so much muscular strength. A little experience will soon teach them the requisite degree of warmth by dipping a finger into the cream; but until that experience is gained, do use the thermometer and spare your arms.—Springfield Republican.

The Apiary.

[Written for Colman's Rural World.]
SURPLUS HONEY BOXES.

To secure the greatest amount of surplus honey per colony from an apiary, the following conditions must exist:

1. There must be furnished to each colony as much box room as all the workers can occupy, or fill, in the whole season. If you place on boxes of only 20 pounds capacity, you must change your boxes ten times to obtain 200 pounds of surplus—an amount which strong colonies, with fertile queens, may give in a very good season, if they do not swarm. But, bees do not like to enter empty boxes, set to supply the place of full ones removed. Apiarians must think themselves very well treated, if they will enter them and commence work after a delay of one full week. Further, the delay of removal of the first suit of boxes; waiting for the finishing up and capping, cost another week's loss. This takes two weeks in the heart of the honey season. But, we need not urge this loss; for with no more room for surplus, they will swarm long before they are filled the first time. And when they leave, the keeper will often find to his surprise, that the boxes are not full—not half full: and I have sometimes found not a particle of honey in them. Any amount of box room, less than full room for all the workers for the whole season, is liable, in a degree, to this same objection.

2. But, how much box room will this require? My highest surplus from one colony of native bees, was 174 pounds—this was from a hive requiring a change of 50 pounds of box room. I waited for a large part of the boxes to be completed, hesitating how to proceed. In this waiting and the delay of the bees to enter the newly supplied boxes, I think time enough was lost to have gathered the 26 pounds which it lacked of 200 pounds. Had they been in my hives, with thirty-six 5½ pound boxes—198 pounds—I think they would all have been filled. That many colonies of Italians would give the 200 pounds, and some reach my largest hive, with an arrangement to give box room of 266 pounds—I think, from my experiments thus far, to be pretty certain.

3. Another condition of success is, an intimate connection of all the boxes with the breeding or central apartment of the hive, and a very free and unobstructed passage between them.

4. The boxes should be so constructed and arranged that the labor of the bees in storing their honey need not require them to pass more than six inches from the breeding apartment.

5. With a hive thus constructed and boxes for 200 pounds of surplus thus arranged, with opportunity, if needed, to add such number of boxes as to give 266 pounds box room—they would rarely, if ever, swarm. I expect, with this arrangement, in some seasons, to get one ton of surplus honey from ten swarms; and to average one ton from twenty colonies often.

My first four colonies in the first four Eureka hives I built, gave 500 pounds and four new swarms, at the rate of one ton for sixteen colonies.

6. But, what advantage is secured by obtaining one ton from ten colonies instead of one ton from 100 colonies? I answer, first, every field is limited in its product of honey as well as of vegetation. It is the interest of every keeper to secure all of this honey that he can in the shape of surplus. Every colony, for breeding and winter, will consume 60 pounds of honey. The hundred colonies will consume 6,000 pounds (three tons) in the year, and give one ton—one-fourth of the product of the field—in surplus. The ten colonies will consume 600 pounds in breeding and wintering and give one ton in surplus: more than three-fourths is secured in surplus and less than one-fourth consumed by the colonies.

7. Put in 30 of the non-swarmer and they will gather 6,000 pounds (three tons), and consume 1,800 pounds. If the bee keeper has 30 non-swarmer, he gathers three-fourths of the honey in his field in surplus. If he uses swarmer, he gathers but one-fourth—the difference is three to one. Three times as much surplus is gathered from the same field by 30 non-swarmer as is gathered by 100 swarmer.

8. But, there is a serious objection, says one, to the non-swarmer: the expense is too great. If we lay out all the profits in expensive hives, we make no profits by the business. That is true, but let us investigate that question:

Call 10 non-swarmer hives \$15 each,	\$150
Call 10 swarms of bees \$5 each,	50
Amount of outlay,	\$200
Interest per annum	14
Hives will be good 10 years: one-tenth of \$150 is,	15
Swarms average 5 years: one fifth,	10
Interest on outlay,	14
Whole amount of annual cost,	\$39

The actual cost of one ton of honey in the non-swarmer is \$39, that is, two cents per pound nearly. Suppose we secure but half as much, the cost will be four cents per pound. If we use the swarmer, 100 will, at \$3 each, with their boxes, cost

100 swarms at \$5 each,	500
Amount of outlay,	\$800
Interest on outlay,	56
One-tenth cost of hives,	30
One-fifth cost of bees,	100

Amount of cost, \$266
Cost per pound, thirteen cents three mills.

The honey costs more than six times as much per pound by our first estimate, and more than three times as much by our last estimate—by the swarmer as by the non-swarmer. And the three tons gathered from the field would cost no more by our last estimate, gathered by the non-swarmer, than the one ton by the swarmer, and only half as much by our first estimate. Can the bee keeper afford to keep workers and facilities that will consume three-fourths of his product, and give him but one-fourth? when he may furnish, at less expense, workmen and facilities that will give him three-fourths of the product, and consume less than one-fourth? JASPER HAZEN, Albany, N. Y.

Horse Department.

HORSE GOSSIP.

The season is not sufficiently advanced to allow anything like a correct surmise of turf events for the present year.

In the East the indications are, that an unusually good racing season will begin at Jerome Park in May, to be followed with a week or more of fine racing at Saratoga in the summer, and wind up at the Park in October. But, in the section formerly termed the West, which might now be properly called the Central States, the signs are not to be called good. At present some of the clubs do not seem to be very enthusiastic in the Central States, and the probability is, that one or more of the race courses, over which a great deal of spirited racing, in times past took place, will be turned out to grass. The Buckeye course at Cincinnati, it appears, is about to be surrendered for driving purposes. The Woodlawn, at Louisville, is covered up with debt; and, like our Laclede, the next movement made on it, will be at the tap of the auctioneer's hammer. As an offset against the doom of the Laclede, the old Abbey is to be revived from his death sleep, and rechristened under a new name in May next.—The Magnolia course, at Mobile, has been doing a huge losing business for two years, and at the last meeting, left the payment of the purses to the magnanimity of Wm. Cottrill, who furnished the amount out of his own pocket. The course at Patterson, New Jersey, has gone down for want of patronage, and lies buried—with Dr. Underwood set up as a sort of dilapidated tomb stone, to indicate fallen greatness.

The next Turf Congress will do nothing probably, except adjourn *sine die* for want of a quorum. The Club at Lexington, Ky., will run on as usual. It is backed by a dozen or more breeders, who are free from any connection with rounders who hippodrome all over the country like Satan, seeking whom they might devour. The public has been driven from the tracks by the conduct of the campaigners, and if several of the courses should be given up and abandoned altogether, the fault will be with the clubs, who have not only permitted disreputable characters to run their horses over the tracks, but have invited them to do so.

"The more the merrier," is an old saying, but it will not hold good in regard to race courses, for the fewer of them we have, the better it will be for the very few that are continued. Saratoga, Fordham (Jerome Park), will be vastly benefitted by the closing of the gates of the bigger part of the tracks West of the Alleghenies. The occupation of the circuit riders would then be gone and the collusion of traveling stables be broken up. Good sometimes comes out of evil; and the chances are, that racing will be placed on a better footing by the villainous operations of the "Ring," which has killed off so many of the courses, that there is not room left for them to practice. A discerning public has done what the clubs would not do. It has expelled the rounders from the tracks, by refusing to attend the race meetings. For the want of patronage, the

clubs are forced to close up, and thus villany is thwarted for want of room to operate. This is, we consider, a great gain for the legitimate turf. It will bring fresh and untried horses together at Saratoga every season. These horses will be owned by gentlemen who raise stock for racing purposes, and they will be run on the "square" for all that is up. The public will then be induced to patronize the race course, and great crowds will assemble to witness the races.

We care not how much men may prate against racing—there is nothing so exciting as a race, and every one will as surely become enlisted in its favor, as that he permits his eyes to behold the contest.

Something of the old style is on the bill of fare for the Saratoga course this summer: Mr. Belmont has matched his Lexington filly against Mr. Travers' Balrownie filly, called Intrigue, for \$5,000. These fillies are two years old, and the distance to be made is one mile. Other matches are spoken of as likely to be run on the same day. When such men as Belmont and Travers match their horses against each other, I am reminded of the days when the owners of Grey Eagle and Wagner, gave joy to the whole American people, by the celebrated contest between their horses over the Oakland course, at Louisville, in the fall of 1839.

The Programme for the regular week at Saratoga, is decidedly the most interesting ever offered by any club in the country. There is another thing in connection with the turf events, that will make Saratoga the favorite racing ground in this country—it is the general attendance of the races by the great crowd of visitors, who go to this delightful summer resort to spend a month or more in festivity and gaiety. Everybody goes to see the horses run, and all enjoy the sport. No one there thinks of anything wrong by going to the Saratoga races.

GOSSIPER.

THOROUGH-BRED HORSES.

EDS. RURAL WORLD: I would be glad to ask some information of your correspondent, "Gossip," in Nos. 5 and 6, about "Large Thorough-Bred Horses." He says "Bonnie Scotland" is sixteen hands high. He has recently been sold to a gentleman in Chicago." I wish to know if Bonnie Scotland is now owned in Chicago; and if so, by whom? I would be glad to know the name of the horse owned by Hon. Bailey Peyton, that he speaks of, as "running 42 miles in 21 days," &c., and the address of Hon. B. Peyton. I fully agree with your correspondent, that it would be infinitely better for the stock of the country, to breed to "large thorough-bred horses."

To my mind a large sized—say a sixteen-hand—thorough-bred horse, is a better horse for all work, than any other breed on earth. Horses of this kind, if trained for the saddle or harness, as roadsters, would soon surpass all others. If trained and bred with an eye to rapid trotting, they would soon outstrip all the fancy Morgans, and Black Hawks, and Hambletonians. I hold that all the superior qualities of these breeds, is owing, in a large measure, to the crosses of thorough-bred horses; and I believe that a thorough-bred horse can do anything that a horse can do, better than any other horse.

I would do all in my power to improve the horse stock of the country, and hence desire the information above asked, for the purpose of

aiding in the introduction of such horses into this part of the State as much as I can, by breeding and otherwise.

SUBSCRIBER.

REPLY.—Bonnie Scotland is now owned by David A. Gage, of Chicago, Ill., Proprietor of the Sherman House.

The address of the Hon. Bailey Peyton, is Gallatin, Tenn. and the name of the horse alluded to, "Rousseau," by Commodore; he by Boston, and out of the dam of Revenue. Rousseau's dam was Nota Price, by Cost Johnson, by Boston.

FAST WALKING HORSES.

The best gait a horse has is, the fast walk. A slow walking horse is an abomination. Who has patience with such a horse? If you ride him or drive him, he exhausts your patience. If he is used to plow, or harrow, or go on the road, he mopes along at a snail's pace. He does only about half the work of the rapid walker. If time is money, you make money, because you save time, by having a horse that walks fast.

Breeders should pay attention to this matter. In selecting a stallion to breed from, by all means select one that can walk fast. A slow walking stallion will be likely to get slow walking colts; while the stallion that has a long, rapid, spirited stride, will be likely to beget colts with a similar action.

Then, there is a great deal in breeding to a horse with spirit and ambition. These cold-blooded horses will beget cold-blooded colts. The nearer you can approach the thorough-bred, even for obtaining a fast walker, the better. There is game there, and spirit, and endurance, and stamina, and style. There are the neat, bony heads, the prominent eyes, the small ears, the capacious nostrils, the large lungs and chests, the well-developed muscles, the bones as dense as ivory.

Even for walkers, then, get the nearest to thorough-bred possible, and the same for trotters, and of course the same for runners. You have, then, horses fit for any company, and for any purpose—to haul the plow, or buggy, or carriage, or to carry you upon their backs.—Breed large, fine mares, to thorough-bred horses, and you will get colts that you will not be ashamed to have your friends see.

Answers to Correspondents.

COL. N. J. COLMAN: Can you tell me where I can get the pure California spring wheat, and its cost per bushel; the Early Rose potatoes, and cost per lb.

ANSWER.—We do not know where California spring wheat may be had. Good seed, we think, of the Rio Grande, can be had here for \$1.75 per bush. See advertisements of Early Rose potatoes in this number.

EDS. RURAL WORLD: I put oat straw on my strawberries last fall. There were seeds with the straw, and they germinated and came up—the oats are about two inches high now. I want to know what to do with it? Which is the most profitable in cultivating strawberries—to let them run, or keep the runners cut off—can they be kept cut off with Crawford's Cultivator?

Mrs. H. C.

ANSWER.—Cut the oats when high enough. In most cases it is best to cut off the runners. It is certainly so with Wilson's Albany. The Crawford Cultivator will answer well for that purpose.

EDS. RURAL WORLD: I would like to get a little good Onion Seed, true to name (the Red Wethersfield). Please say where I can get it.

SUBSCRIBER.

ANSWER.—Wm. Koenig & Co., of our city, who advertise in our paper, have it for sale. Also see advertisement of Rev. G. Miller, on page 116 this issue.

MR. NORMAN J. COLMAN: Is there any of the seed of the Eucalyptus trees, or Acacia lophantha, of Australia, in the United States. They are said to be of a wonderful growth and adapted to our prairies.—Where can it be had, and how planted?

E.D.

ANSWER.—The seed can be had of J. M. Thorburn & Co., Seed Dealers, 15 John St., New York City, at about 75 cents an ounce. We have no experience as to vegetating the seed, but would steep in warm water, and sow from 1st to 20th of April, and treat like the Locust.

COL. N. J. COLMAN: Will you inform me of the mode of application necessary to obtain seeds from the Agricultural Department at Washington? H.

ANSWER.—Address the Commissioner of Agriculture direct. To obtain Reports, address your Representative or Senator in Washington, or the Commissioner.

EDS. RURAL WORLD: I wish to know if hogs have the Thumps when they have the Cholera? Is the Thumps a distinct disease, or caused by other diseases. Hogs are dying here with the Thumps—or something else which makes them thump.

D.C.D.

ANSWER.—Thumps and Cholera are two very distinct diseases. Thumps correspond to the palpitation of the heart in human beings, and cholera affects the same parts in hogs as in the human species. Feed charcoal, sulphur and salt.

EDS. RURAL WORLD: I wish to put out a wind-break and fence on the west of my orchard. How would it do to set out a row of American Larch, say about 30 inches apart? Would it make a hog-tight fence in four or five years by setting a stake or two between?

J. W. B., Jackson Co., Mo.

ANSWER.—We doubt the propriety of combining the fence and windbreak—one good idea is enough at a time. We do not see that a good hog-proof fence can be made as indicated. The Locust will do with nails driven in it. We have seen the trees planted eight feet apart and plank nailed to them in the place of posts. A second row might be planted to help form the windbreak—but, why not plant a belt of evergreens at once? Norway spruce, White pine, cedar and other evergreens, can be used to much purpose in forming windbreaks—any, or all of them mixed, are good. We have seen Norway spruce so dense as to turn hogs; but whether it would do so, long, is not determined. Any one having facts to communicate, would confer a favor by so doing.

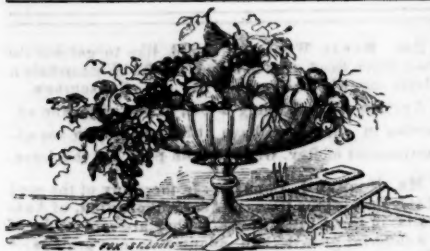
A correspondent asks: "Can you give me the method of making the seeds of the Red cedar germinate the first year?"

ANSWER.—We have placed in moist earth in a box, the seed as gathered in the fall or early winter; kept it on the north side of the house, till the ground was warm; planted the seed, and quite a large proportion came up.

COL. COLMAN: Which is the best early variety of strawberry; the best way to prepare the bed; the proper distance and time to transplant, and all necessary information in regard to cultivation of the plants?

J. B. L., Barry, Mo.

ANSWER.—Wilson's Albany is the most reliable here. Prepare thoroughly by deep plowing, so as to deepen and enrich the soil and kill out weeds and seeds. If the subsequent culture is with the hoe—plant close, say in beds eighteen inches apart each way. If in field culture—in drills eighteen inches apart in the rows, and three feet between the rows. If in hills—about two-and-a-half feet apart each way. Plant as early in the season as possible. After-culture—keep quite clean with hoe or cultivator. If for fruit alone—keep down the runners. The culture must be modified to suit the objects in view and circumstances that constantly tend to change.



HORTICULTURAL.

[Written for Colman's Rural World.]

Preserving Half-hardy Plants Over Winter.

It is but comparatively few persons that can have the luxury of a greenhouse; for, while many more might do so than what does, there is but few that like to indulge in the expensive luxury. Yet, there are probably few that have a nice flower garden, or like to have a few flowers in summer, that would not like to keep sundry desirable decorative flower and foliage plants over winter, if it could be done at no expense, and very little trouble.

I will tell of a plan that I have adopted with good success, and therefore speak from experience—which is worth a great deal more than theory or speculation: Having a roomy cellar, which should not be too dry and warm, nor too wet (mine is quite damp on the surface of dirt floor); if frost-proof, so much the better; though if a few degrees of frost do get in, in coldest snaps, it will do no hurt. Procure a lot of nice clean saw-dust, and, if from dry lumber and too dry, moisten it evenly and equally all through, just enough to make it feel a little moist to the hand—but, by no means, wet; have a lot of this ready on your cellar floor, in the back part, or anywhere most out of the way, and, after you have allowed your plants to remain out of doors as long as it is safe to keep them from destruction; commence taking them up and stow away in winter quarters: many plants may be just lifted out of the ground, retaining as much of the soil about the roots as possible, and placed side by side on the cellar floor, and filled all around and up the stems or leaves a little way with this saw dust; others may be potted, and the pots plunged in over their rims in it. Tubers and bulbs and many other things may be buried entirely in it. In this condition they are to remain perfectly dormant through the winter: they will need no watering, the saw-dust keeping them in a uniform, plump condition—no dying and shriveling—and, if cellar and saw-dust is right, no decay. No change need be made in cellar management—doors or windows may be thrown open in all mild weather, admitting all the light and air they will need, and need only be kept close in frosty or inclement weather.

Plants that may be thus kept.—This plan is not intended to apply to very soft-wooded, succulent plants, as *Verbenas*, *Salvias*, *Coleus*, and such plants as have no woody stem at all. But, there are many tender or half-hardy perennial plants for which it will answer well, and prove very desirable; as, for instance, all the *Cannas*; that magnificent summer decorative plant, the noble *Pampas* grass; also the pretty foliage

plants, which are nearly, but not quite, hardy—the *Farfugium grande*, and probably the *Bocconia cordata*; also the splendid *Tritomias*, the *Feather-grass*, *Penisetum longistylum*, and many similar handsome decorative plants. Besides, I am satisfied that many other common plants, also, may thus be kept, such as the *Scarlet* and *Rose Geraniums*, *Heliotrope*, *Lemon Verbena*, *Lantanas*, *Bouvardias*, &c.—provided they are divested of foliage, and the softest part of the stem, and the hard woody parts only are left. Frost should be kept pretty much all out for these, however.

Plants in cellars are generally kept too dry, so that they shrivel and perish; or, too damp, and decay supervenes; but, plunged in saw-dust—which is the best material to preserve an even condition of moisture about the roots, and the atmosphere cool, without freezing—many kinds, and large quantities could be thus kept with exceeding small trouble and no further expense.

Besides the above-enumerated plants—in a cellar that could command some light—very many beautiful half-hardy evergreens and flowering plants in pots and tubs, could be easily kept plunged in the saw-dust. *Oleanders*, *Crape Myrtles*, nice little plants of the *Rhododendron*, the fancy *Hollies*, *Araucarias*, *Ficus*, and many such like plants—could be preserved over winter, to be plunged into the open ground in summer, to give variety and beauty to the flower garden; while tender roses, taken up carefully at the approach of winter, and heeled into this material and place, would keep like a perfect charm. And, I further believe that, for tubers of the *Dahlia*, *Tuberose*, *Gladiolus* bulbs, &c., there is no better way of preserving, than packing away in barrels or boxes of saw-dust, in the right condition, and placing them in a cellar free from frost and with a suitable degree of dryness.

C. S.

APPLES; TREE PEDDLERS; &C.

Never in the memory of man has there been so good a fall and winter, so far, on winter wheat, and for the cereals the coming season. For ninety days it has been raining and snowing with only brief intervals of let up: all this dampness has gone down. I anticipate a good corn year, and possibly we, of the great West, can furnish the denizens of the East with some cheap beef—an article unheard of for some years.

Of the many apples before the people, the little *Wine Sap* should be held in high esteem. I recollect it in my school days being brought, by some of the boys, to Old Edgewood Academy, two miles from Richmond, Va., and there eaten with avidity. In that latitude it was a little more acid than in this, still it was considered an excellent sort. I have since found it far up into Iowa, standing like a lonely sentinel in some exposed prairie orchard, alive, yet surrounded by the dead trees of other and more tender varieties; I have seen it up as far North as a fruit tree can live—up to that line marked by the hand of the Frost King, and saying in cold and icy tones, "thus far shalt thou go and no farther." The *Wine Sap* is classed as a No. 2 apple; if so, it is a first-class No. 2: every orchard should have it, especially in an open prairie region.

The ancients held that every person on earth had a Guardian Angel in heaven. Even in our times it is extensively believed. There are two things I should like my Guardian Angel to deliver me from—the small pox and a tree peddler. This itinerant vender has worked a power of mischief in the West, by dishonestly practicing on the credulity of our farmers. All men who follow the plow, or wield the pruning knife, should beware of this class of merchants.

The number of farmers is small who can tell a variety of fruit by its bark or contour. A vender of trees and shrubs should be a man of integrity, besides having a knowledge of his business. If a Missourian wants his *Jenelon*, he wants it. If a Massachusetts man wants his *Baldwin*, he will be satisfied with nothing else. Year before last I paid a peddler \$1 apiece for four-year old dwarf apples. The vender swore by Old Pomol. that they would bear the next year. My wife and I have watched in vain for apples; and, in the language of the immortal *Schiller*, our crop was "Nix," which, being interpreted, means never a one. My traveling nursery sold me Concord four-year old (?) at 75 cents apiece; this fall I bought as good from Maj. Bryant, of Wathena, for 10 cents per root. Six-bit pear trees were the size of common switches.

Friends, take the advice of your fellow citizen, who has been sold, boxed and delivered—but, for the last time! Buy your nursery stock from some responsible Western orchardist and nurseryman. Patronize good home institutions, that your hair be not prematurely grey; that your end may be peaceful and happy; and your healthy children will rise up and call you blessed.

T. HENSHALL.

Troy, Doniphan Co., Kan. Jan. 9th, 1869.

[Written for Colman's Rural World.]

The Philadelphia Raspberry.

This raspberry is undoubtedly the only red variety that has been sufficiently tested in the West, that can be relied upon. Many of the much lauded varieties—some of which do exceedingly well at the East, including the famous *Red* or *Hudson River Antwerp*—will not stand the test of our severe Western winters. Succeeding as it does the *Black Cap* family of raspberries; lengthening out the raspberry season a week or ten days; producing large crops of fruit in almost all situations; freedom from throwing up an excessive quantity of suckers—are all desirable qualities, that will make it the berry for the million.

It was discovered about thirty years ago, by Frederick Bedaker (then residing in the county of Philadelphia, Pa.) growing in a wood near his dwelling. He removed the plant to his garden, and there cultivated it for about fifteen years before distributing the plants. Though not of the very highest flavor, its hardy and productive qualities render it, for the West, one of the greatest acquisitions among our new, or newly introduced, fruits.

The *Clark* raspberry is said, by some cultivators at the East, to be equally hardy there, and of better flavor than the *Philadelphia*. It has not been well tested at the West. Will some of our cultivators give us their experience with it?

JOSEPH CLARK., Pecvely, Mo.

Warsaw Horticultural Society.

The December meeting of this association was held at Boscow's Hall in Warsaw, on the afternoon of Wednesday Dec. 30.

Election of officers being in order, the following were elected for the year 1869, viz:

President—Asaph C. Hammond.
Vice President—Charles C. Hoppe.
Secretary and Treasurer—Thomas Gregg.

PROGRAMME FOR 1869.

January meeting, at Dr. Hay's. Special subject—Soil. Essayist, Dr. Hay.

February, at A. H. Worthen's—Pruning—W. W. Chittenden.

March, at Claus Albers'—Grafting—Gabriel Mariot.

April, at J. F. Spitze's—Tree Planting—Geo. B. Worthen.

May, at Mr. Mariot's—Birds as Friends or Enemies—Louis Stracke.

June, at C. C. Hoppe's—Insect Enemies—Wm. N. Grover.

July, at Louis Stracke's—Summer Culture—B. G. Grover.

August, at President Hammond's—Pear Cultivation—A. C. Hammond.

September, at Golden Bluff Vineyard—Varieties of Grapes—B. J. Fuller.

October, at Mr. Willis'—Varieties of Apples and Peaches—Secretary Gregg.

November, at W. W. Chittenden's—Orchard Culture—Mr. Willis.

December, at ——— Subject and Essayist, not named.

President Hammond placed on the table, samples of Apples, viz: Ladies' Sweeting, White Winter Pearmain, Ben Davis, Winesap, Rome Beauty and Rawles' Janet.

The following annual address was delivered by President Hammond:

"The Year and its Lessons" has been assigned me by this society as the subject of an address to-day. Let us, therefore, very briefly consider the successes and failures that have occurred during the year now so nearly numbered with the past, as well as the useful lessons they teach us.

The spring opened with great promise of an abundant fruit crop. Trees of all kinds being well supplied with fruit buds, which were generally in a healthy condition; but the warm weather of March brought them forward too rapidly; and when, on the fourth of April, the mercury sank twelve degrees below the freezing point, almost the entire crop of apples, pears and cherries, was destroyed, and all the small fruits seriously injured—leaving only the grapes and peaches—and even these did not entirely escape.

Our insect enemies have also come upon us like the plagues of Egypt. First the Cicada seriously injured our fruit trees in some localities. Next the Grasshoppers stripped many of them of their foliage. Then a worm (which Mr. Walsh says he has never seen before) made its appearance upon the leaves of young orchard and nursery trees, and about finished the work of defoliation. The Curculio has not only destroyed the entire crop of plums in this vicinity, but has this season for the first time, attacked our peaches and cherries. The birds have also been very numerous, appropriating most of the cherries, berries, and early apples, that survived the frost, and in some instances, destroying almost the entire product of a vineyard in a few days.

Truly a chapter of disasters! but shall we yield to discouragements and abandon our business, because diseases, insects and birds increase? The man who would become a fruit-grower, and has not sufficient energy to boldly meet and finally overcome, all these obstacles, has mistaken his calling, and had better turn his attention to some other pursuit.

He who would succeed as a horticulturist, must be in love with his profession; he must adopt it as his business, and identify it with his life. He must be a close observer; possess an indomitable will and a large amount of patience and perseverance. He must be a man who has learned to labor and to wait. Not to labor for a season—to plant an orchard or vineyard, and then sit down and wait with folded hands, expecting without further effort, to gain Pomona's fairest treasures—but to labor constantly and earnestly, in season and out of season, firmly believing that the reward will surely come. He should also understand something of the nature of the soil, its relations and conditions; something of Geology, Entomology, Agricultural Chemistry, and Vegetable Physiology. In a word—something of the science of horticulture.

In the present age, science is called to the aid of every profession and made to do the bidding of man. Commerce once crept cautiously along the shore, or navigated the inland seas. Science gave her the compass and taught her to spread her wings and sail from shore to shore. Ere long she brought to her aid

the mysterious power of fire and water, and now she defies the mighty force of wind and wave, and goes boldly forth to every sea and every clime, to civilize and enrich the earth. Great has been her triumph on the sea, but greater on the land. The locomotive flies along the shore faster than the ship across the deep; and now the echo of its shrill whistle and the clatter of its iron hoofs, are heard not only amid the haunts of civilized men, but on the mystical plains of the great American desert, and amid the solitude of the Rocky Mountains.

Though science has done so much for the commercial world, how little comparatively has it done for the farmer or horticulturist. True it has given us much valuable machinery, and taught us the importance of a better system of culture. But how little do we know of the mysterious chemical influences that are ever at work in the great laboratory of nature to produce the luscious fruits we pluck and eat with so little thought; or of the peculiar structure of the trees and plants with which we daily come in contact; or the subtle influence of the soil on their growth and development.

Who has yet discovered a sure preventive for the pear blight or peach and grape rot? Or a way to circumvent the hosts of insects that prey upon our fruit? Or prevent the depredations of those sweet singers of the grove, who sing to us their morning song, and delight us with their beautiful presence as they flit from tree to tree, and then in perfect wantonness destroy great quantities of our choicest fruit? Surely we have many important lessons yet to learn.

It is a very prevalent idea that it is the easiest thing in the world to manage a farm or fruit plantation; while it really requires more brains to become a first-class farmer or horticulturist, than to become a successful merchant, banker, or artisan. An ignorant, blundering man, may occasionally produce a crop of corn or wheat; but, in these days of innumerable insects and diseases, he cannot succeed in profitable fruit growing. And I venture the assertion, that the day is not far distant, when from these causes, the entire business will have to be given up to the professional horticulturist.

Perhaps a word in regard to the profits of fruit culture, may not be out of place at this time. Will it pay? is a question often put to the practical fruit grower. Can I enjoy the poetry and pleasure the business affords, and at the same time make it peculiarly profitable? We answer, yes. Still it is our duty to warn the novice of the difficulties he may expect to encounter—for in common with other vocations it has its perplexities. A few years ago a grape mania swept over the country, and hundreds of vineyards were planted in our own county. What is the result? Some were planted on uncongenial soil, others with tender or unhealthy varieties, while others have suffered from mis-management, so that all have not proved a success; yet most of them are yielding their owners a fair profit.

A year or two later everybody was planting pears, and many of our fruit-growers predicted that the market would soon be glutted, and prices ruinously low. But we have seen that three-fourths of the trees planted have failed entirely, and one-half of the remaining fourth are in an unhealthy condition. In view of these facts—is pear culture profitable? Most certainly to those that possess the requisite skill to make it a success.

With peaches, plums, cherries, and all the small fruits, the majority will fail disastrously, while the few will make it enormously profitable.

A large majority of those who engage in the business of fruit growing do so with more enthusiasm than wisdom. They do not stop to consider what varieties or species are adapted to their soil or location; but plant largely of whatever they know or suppose to be of good quality, or that some friend may happen to recommend, without any regard to vigor, hardiness, or bearing qualities.

No one would expect to succeed in any other business under similar management. Then why should they expect to be successful in fruit growing? I believe it to be just as safe as any other business; but those who engage in it expecting to reap a golden harvest without an earnest persistent effort—will be sadly disappointed.

REMARKS—"Line upon line—precept upon precept, here a little and there a little." President Hammond's address is a good one—and though the facts and suggestions, so appropriately made by Mr. H., have been stated in editorials and addresses, again and again, they will bear repeating. The great teacher Pestalotry said, "it is only by everlasting repetition, that we can succeed to fasten truths upon the mind." The good example of the Alton Horticultural Society seems also to influence the Warsaw Horticultural Society. We wish them both abundant success.

[Reported for Colman's Rural World.] Meramec Horticultural Society, Mo.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., February 4th, 1869.

The regular monthly meeting was held in the School House. President Bell in the chair.

Mr. W. G. Goodale of Centralia, Ill., exhibited and explained a patent spring fruit crate, which was generally well thought of by the members, for rough roads and long distances.

The following articles were placed on the tables—By Wm. Harris: Jenetons and Pryor's Red apples; very fine. By Mr. Nanson, Jenetons; fair. Vase of Viola Tricolor in fine order, and Red Cedar much stung by Locusts—by Gus. Pauls. Parsnip and Salsify, excellent, by Wm. Jacobs. Scions of a seedling apple, that has kept for two years, were presented to the members by Gus. Pauls. John S. Seymour presented four different samples of Concord wine, and L. D. Votaw samples of Concord and Catawba.

The growth of the parsnips exhibited, being remarked upon, it was found, in growing, that there was not so much difference in the varieties of seed, as in the perfect preparation of the soil by deepening and enriching. They demand deep, fine, rich and moist soil to attain perfection.

Mr. Thomas had planted out trees, part in clover and part in a sweet potato lot. Those among the sweet potatoes were generally healthy and well grown—those among the clover were in a bad fix, three out of four being dead entirely. This shows that thorough culture is best. Wants to know, what is best to be done with those remaining? Some say to dig them up entirely; but it seems poor policy, because some died, to kill all the others.

G. Pauls thinks there is much in the mutual adaptation of soil and varieties. Would like to hear this subject discussed.

L. D. Votaw: The trees spoken of by Mr. Thomas have been poorly taken care of. They not only stand in clover sod; but cattle and hogs have been among them. I advise to keep the clover out of a young orchard for several years, at least till the trees are in bearing. As to letting hogs in the orchard, it is time enough for that when the trees get into bearing. Thorough culture is best for trees. I have strawberries in part of my young orchard; they have been well cultivated, and yet I think there is a great difference between the trees that have the strawberries and those that have corn. I like corn or potatoes among young trees—and perhaps clean culture without any crop is best in the end.

Mr. Smizer: Sowing clover among young trees is objected to by Mr. Votaw; but, if the trees are cultivated for five or six feet round, will the clover be an injury?

Mr. Votaw: I doubt if any one can tell the amount of injury. It is hardly safe to trust to the working round—it is very apt to be neglected.

Wm. Brown thinks part of the fault of Mr. Thomas' loss may be in the trees. I think we are all wrong in the method of propagating by grafting on pieces of root. The old style of grafting on the whole root is best.

Mr. Cross would advise Mr. Thomas to pull out his trees and throw them away. Get good trees near home; keep out the borers; cultivate well—and he will have good trees and good fruit.

Mr. Thomas: Many of my trees are growing—have a hold on the ground; so I cannot see how it will pay for me to kill all the rest, because so many have died.

Mr. Votaw: Where the roots are good and low buds pushing—it may do well to cut off the old stem and get an entirely fresh start. Much depends upon the preparation of the soil before planting.

Mr. Thomas' soil was poor before he planted at first, and then the putting down in clover finished the trees. There is no necessity for putting in clover or hogs until after the trees are ten years old.

G. Pauls thinks there are two kinds of roots, performing two distinct functions; the tap-roots to seek moisture, and the surface roots to seek light, air and nutriment. In grafting on pieces of root, you are apt to mis-place the roots, as to the work they have to perform.

Mr. Thomas: I think there is no safe rule to work by. Twenty years ago orchards and fruit were abundant. You could get a wagon-load of fruit anywhere. Have had cider delivered at \$2 a barrel and the grower find the barrel. Then, there was plenty of fruit and nobody wanted it—now, there is little or no fruit, and everybody wants it.

J. S. Seymour thinks that if the trees are worse, the fruit is better. There is no doubt that insects—especially Borers—are much worse now.

H. C. Cross thinks that the increase in the number of orchards, has induced an increase in the pests.

L. D. Votaw: The orchards twenty years ago were mostly seedling, and the fruit, as Mr. Thomas says, of no value.

Mr. Harris remarked—then there were no worms.
Mr. Votaw: And there was no rust, because there was no wheat.

The mode of the vegetation of the seed and development of the tree was shown. The benefits and evils of grafting on pieces, instead of whole roots, remarked upon; and the relation subsisting between the root and branch systems of the tree.

It was resolved to continue the subject of the "Apple" to the next meeting.

The President appointed the next meeting at the School-house, Eureka, on the 4th March.

WM. MUIR, Sec.

Alton Horticultural Society.

This old society held its February meeting at the residence of Hon. J. J. Mitchell, and although the weather had promised very unfavorable a very large attendance was had. At an early hour the session was called to order by President Starr. The special committee on the suggestions contained in the President's address made a report favoring the views contained in that interesting paper, and on motion a special committee, consisting of E. A. Riehl, was appointed with instructions to obtain a suitable place in Alton, where fruits and flowers may be deposited from time to time by the members of this society, to remain on exhibition, so that all may have the opportunity to see the more rare plants and fruits, and especially those which would otherwise decay in the interim between the regular monthly meetings.

This is a very important action, and will meet a want long felt and fully appreciated by some of the society.

Another matter of interest to all, and especially of importance for the future, is the proposition to establish a Statistical department. After a full discussion, a special committee, consisting of Mr. H. G. McPike was selected, charged with gathering statistical horticultural matter for the general use of the members.

In the progress of the regular order of business, essays being called, Dr. E. S. Hull read that portion of one in reference to Fruit Buds, and how affected by cold. He presented on the black-board a diagram of a bud, with its exterior-cells and interior central germ. He explained the various conditions of buds, and the consequent effect of cold upon them in a given condition, illustrating that the bud, where the exterior cells were punctured or bursted, the interior germ was not unfrequently damaged or killed.

To obviate this condition, among other things the tree should not be permitted to over-fruit or grow over-grown sappy wood during the period of the formation of the fruit buds for the following year—the forces of the tree should be economized and equalized, and the tree should be cultivated to near the end of the season.

The portion of the paper read proving so important, the whole paper will be published with the proceedings.

A resolution was adopted requiring all subjects for discussion to be hereafter submitted in the form of a resolution.

On motion the Secretary was allowed the sum of five dollars for each meeting.

The subject of hot-beds was thoroughly developed in connection with the growth of the tomato. In the experience of the successful growers of the tomato—which are few—the net receipts per acre varied from \$100 to \$300 per acre.

A special committee was authorized to purchase for the Society, to be distributed, a carefully-selected variety of flower seeds.

The subject of grafting the grape came up and the experience of many years would go to show that fall or very early spring grafting on old roots has proved a perfect success; this will prove very essential in renewing old vineyards with special varieties.

The host and hostess announced an entertainment in the dining-room, to which the society repaired as committee of the whole, and on the most careful observation we failed to see much difference between the Special or Standing committees on this most interesting occasion, whether the committee on culinary vegetables, that on ornithology, or the one on wine, all seemed to expend the full experience of the past upon the bountiful present.

The fact that the next meeting of the Grape Growers' Association of the Mississippi Valley, will be held in this city next April, was announced, and steps preparatory were considered.

Ohio has over 141,000 acres in orchards, which in 1867 yielded 9,404,000 bushels of apples, 4,402,000 bushels of peaches, and 125,700 bushels of pears, the whole valued at over \$7,000,000.

The Vineyard.

[Written for Colman's Rural World.]

ON OZARK'S ARTICLE ON GRAPES.

The main part of "Ozark's" caustic and timely article on "the grape question," as presented to us Westerners, by certain grape vine sellers through the medium of "respectable Eastern journals," is just the thing for the times. His advice "to go slow with these Eastern grape excellencies," and only test one or two of each at a time—meets my views exactly; and I will also add—all other horticultural wonders, whether of Eastern or Western production; ever ready to commend whatever proves valuable, from whatever source we obtain it, but slow to invest large sums till we know something of its merits in our own locality. Soil and climate have so much to do with the success of varieties, "that it may lead to loss of money, and hope deferred," if we purchase largely before testing either Walter, Eumelan, Missouri Mammoth, Jucunda, or numerous other candidates for public favor, of which we read undoubtedly reliable statements, of perfect hardiness, great productiveness, unequalled beauty, delicious flavor, &c., &c.—all of which may or may not be true where the certificates were written. Far be it from me to discourage the introduction of new and improved varieties of fruit. I am even willing to expend liberally in testing and experimenting, firmly believing that great results are yet attainable; but, at the same time, I as firmly believe that horticultural progress has been seriously retarded by puffing into notoriety worthless varieties, by selfish and interested parties.

But why "Ozark's" ungenerous allusion to the East, and his fervent prayer to save us from their "bran-bread, Vineland and seedling grapes?" If he is not remarkably fond of such "wise men from the East" as Dr. Iona-Israel-la-Grant—he would do well to recollect that it has given us a Downing, a Thomas, a Hovey, a Wilder, a Barry and a host of other horticulturists not to be ashamed of. Can he spare the Concord grape or its originator—that veteran Eastern seedling grape experimenter, E. W. Bull, of Concord, Mass., who yet, in his old age, hopes to produce a still better variety? Would he not have Rogers and Boyden continue their experiments; if not for what they have done, yet for what we all hope they may still do? Please tell us "Ozark," what connection exists between our subject, "bran-bread and Vineland;" perhaps there may be something there that I don't quite understand—give us light.

If you will read Mrs. M. T. Davies' excellent article, next page to your own (Jan. 9, page 26,) you will probably be convinced that even little things have much to do with the harmony of a nation, as well as with a single family, and avoid all expressions calculated to awaken sectional strife and hatred, ever following the advice contained in Washington's farewell address: "Let us all learn something from the experience of the past."

Yours, for truth and progress,

Kankakee Co., Ill.

B. N. McKINSTRY.

WHEN TO CUT GRAPE POSTS.

EDS. RURAL WORLD: "Grape-Grower" asks: "When ought timber to be cut, that it will last longest?" I have cut black locust, oak, walnut, sugar trees and ash at all seasons of the year. I find that timber cut in August will last longer than when cut at any other time; timber cut in August will last longer in the ground than it will on the ground if cut in spring; I had almost said, if it was laid up off the ground. In setting posts or timber, always put the top end down, the grain runs that way, and of course it will shed water better. Would roofs turn water if put on the reverse of what they are? Would a sheep's wool turn rain if the wool hung up instead of down? Of course not. Learn then from nature, and keep the grain of wood so that it will turn water off, instead of conduct it in.

In putting on shingles or boards for a roof, see that the grain sheds down; and in planking up a building, with the plank endwise, put the grain down. Mr. "Grape-Grower" put your stakes with grain down, and if you cut timber in the spring, tar the end that goes in the ground by all means, or you will have your "grape sticks" for wood the second year.

Never put your timber in the ground green, unless you put it entirely under ground, in which case it would make no difference. F. L.

[Written for Colman's Rural World.]

Norton's Virginia and Cynthiana.

To Mr. "S."—page 72, of Rural World: You seem to be desirous of coming to a final conclusion on the Norton's Virginia and Cynthiana question. As you mention my name, I will tell you, not what I guess, but what I positively know, touching that subject.

The Cynthiana is as certainly to be distinguished from the Norton, as the Louisiana is from the Rulander. Though the ordinary observer may not be able to find out distinctive characteristics, either in the outward appearance of the shoots and leaves, or in the form, color or even taste of the fruit; while the fermenting process will reveal a very decisive and essential difference. As the Louisiana and Rulander, so the Norton and Cynthiana are sub-species of the same family; which, to avoid pernicious confusion, ought not to be thrown together in the manner proposed by you. If you will ever attend a wine fair at Herman, or oblige me with your company at my rural homestead, you will be convinced of the error of all those who assert the identity of the two mentioned varieties.

The Cynthiana wine, compared with the Norton's juice, is less dark, of a red-diamond lustre; contains less of the astringent matter (tannin); less of the bitter, earthy taste; and has a peculiar and most refined flavor and bouquet—the fire or strength of both wines, being about the same. It is less than the Norton a medicine-wine—a true God-send to the amateurs of the purple nectar.

Mr. Huetmann describes the Cynthiana correctly thus: Vine, a strong, vigorous, hardy grower; bunch and berry resembling Norton's Virginia—somewhat larger, and more juicy; makes an exquisite dark wine, more delicate in aroma than Norton's Virginia, which it

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Mean of the week, 46° 54.
Maximum on 12th at 2 P. M., 74°.
Minimum on 7th at 7 A. M., 28°.
Range, 46°.

otherwise much resembles; productive and healthy; very valuable, but difficult to propagate.

Do not deceive yourself, Mr. S., by thinking that in your Norton vines, you have also the Cynthia, and consequently the very best grape to gain the most delicious red wine as yet produced in this country. Nor, permit vendors to deceive you: try to get the genuine Cynthia from some reliable vintner in our own State. Do it as soon as possible, otherwise you will be left behind with all the other identifiers.

FREDERICK MUENCH.

Femme, Osage, Mo.

GRAPES FOR RAISINS.—Col. Colman: I am desirous, if possible, of obtaining a variety of grape suitable for making raisins. If you, or any of your readers, know of a variety suitable for that purpose, please answer through the Rural World.

W. H. C., Hillsboro, Ill.

PRECOCITY OF THE SEASON.

The present winter (since the one cold snap in the middle of Dec.) appears to have been an unusually mild one, not only throughout this side of the American continent, but in Europe also; for the papers tell us that the weather has been exceedingly mild in England, and the season is a month in advance of the average.

As a matter of record, we desire to state the following facts: Here in the immediate vicinity of St. Louis, the frog was heard Saturday, Feb. 13th, and also to-day, the 14th, quite distinctly.

The Scarlet Maple is now in full bloom; the little crimson pistils of the hazel nut are expanded, and the catkins swelling and coloring ready for the fructification. The catkins of the early willows, are of course expanded, and the little bees were seen, during several days of last week, to come home loaded.

The *Capsella bursapastoris* was seen in full bloom several days ago, and the Blue bird has been here some time, and was last week singing delightfully. Buds are swelling generally; but we hope this kind of weather will not last much longer.

C. S., Feb. 14th, 1869.

THE WEATHER

FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 12TH.

The aspects of the weather of this week, have been in keeping with that portion of this unprecedented winter that is already past. The first two days were rather cool, with a slight attempt at snow, and ending in a misting rain. On the 8th the rain fell in considerable amount and continued over twenty-four hours. The wind has been much in the South, with a rapidly rising temperature, touching the very high point 74° on the 12th.

The flowers on the Red Elm and Beveridge Willow are quite conspicuous, and opening rapidly. The grass looks as fresh as in April.

This winter goes very far to justify the opinions often expressed as to the character of the winters in this State sixty years ago. At that time, we have often been told, the boys ran about all winter without shoes; and the experience of the last twenty-five years, gave rise to the idea that the winters were becoming much colder. This winter will go far to create implicit confidence in the veracity of these pioneers, whose statements, as to the winters, were, of late years, received with many grains of allowance.

Mean of the week, 46° 54.
Maximum on 12th at 2 P. M., 74°.
Minimum on 7th at 7 A. M., 28°.
Range, 46°.

Colman's Rural World.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY NORMAN J. COLMAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR, at 612 North Fifth St. St. Louis, Mo., at \$2 per annum, in advance. A FREE COPY for one year to any person sending a club of five new subscribers and Ten Dollars.

ASSOCIATE EDS.—W. M. MUIR and C. W. MUEFFELDT.

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTORS:

M. G. Kern, Francis Guivits, Rockwell Thompson, A. Fendler, Carew Sanders, Mrs. E. Tupper, O. L. Barler, E. A. Riehl, Mrs. M. T. Davies.

Advertising Rates—20 cents per line each insertion inside advertising columns; 30 cents per line each insertion on the last page; double price for unusual display. Sixty cents per line for special notices. Nothing inserted for less than One Dollar per issue.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

Western Mutual Life Insurance Co.

We again call the attention of our readers to the Advertisement of the WESTERN MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY. Having insured in the WESTERN, and believing it to be safe, sound and reliable, and desiring that we, the people of the West, should at least divide our patronage between the Eastern and Western Companies, thereby retaining with us a portion of the money that belongs here—we commend to our readers the WESTERN MUTUAL. "As we glance over its list of Officers and Trustees, we see many names that we recognize as among our most worthy citizens—persons who are known for honesty and integrity, and whose names alone bespeak for the WESTERN MUTUAL a great success." We believe the system of Life Insurance to be a worthy one, and that we are doing a good work if we influence any of our readers to get their lives insured. All our shrewd business men of the present day are availing themselves of its benefits. The rich and the poor alike see in it their advantage.

Catalogues Received.

Canon's nursery and greenhouse catalogue, Webster Groves, St. Louis county, Mo.

Henry Michel's descriptive catalogue of greenhouse, bedding and herbaceous plants, and flower seeds; office, 207 north 2d street, St. Louis.

Hovey & Heffron, 57 State street, Chicago. Flower, vegetable and farm seeds and potatoes.

W. H. Lyman, seedsman and florist, Leverett, Mass.

Wm. S. Little, descriptive catalogue of the Rochester Commercial Nurseries, East av. Rochester, N.Y.

J. M. Thorburn & Co., 15 John street, N.Y., annual wholesale list of vegetable, agricultural and flower seeds.

Wm. Koenig & Co., 207 north 2d street, St. Louis, catalogue of agricultural implements and seeds.

Dr. John E. Ennis & Co., Great Western Nursery, Lyons, Iowa, apple grafts, fruit trees, &c.

B. M. Watson, Plymouth, Mass., garden, flower and tree seeds.

Geo. W. Campbell, Delaware, Ohio, grape vines and small fruits.

We are under obligations to Mr. N. G. Bishop, 614 north Fifth street, for some fine specimens of the Rawles' Janet and Limber Twig apples. Those wishing to buy, will find Mr. Bishop's cellar replete with a good assortment of the varieties that keep until this season.

THE OLD OAKEN BUCKET.—This is another new publication—a neat looking monthly of 50 pages, devoted chiefly to the cause of Temperance, and is evidently destined to become the organ of the Temperance advocates of the West. It is also replete with choice miscellany. Published by Messrs. Cowen & Protzman, 16 Washington street, Indianapolis, Ind.

John J. Steele, Esq., of Mexico, Mo., inquires where he can obtain a pair of Poland Chickens; also, a pair of Bantams (yellow).

Those having them to sell, would do well to address him.

POULTRY WANTED.—Eds. Rural World: I would like to know where I can get any of the following breeds of poultry—Black Spanish, Houdons, or full blood Brahmas. Any of them would do on the farm, I think—though the Black Spanish have the preference. C. W. T. Madison Co., Ill.

THE MINNESOTA MONTHLY, published by D. A. Robertson, Editor and Proprietor, St. Paul, Minnesota.

This is a very neat magazine of Agriculture, Horticulture, Domestic Economy and Social Improvement. It is octavo in form, printed on good paper, and well filled with excellent matter. Some of the articles in the number are truly valuable. It promises to be an entertaining worker in the cause of general enlightenment.

WESTERN GRAPE GROWERS' ASS'N, PERU, NEB.—The following are the officers of this Association:—Dr. J. F. Neal, President; D. B. Randal, Vice-President; W. W. Randal, Treasurer; B. L. Easley, Secretary.

WABASH CO. (ILL.) AGR. SOCIETY.—The following are the officers of this Society: Thos. Rigg, President; James Calverly, Vice-President; M. J. Habberton, Secretary and Treasurer; A. G. Edgar, Cor. Secretary; Andrew Stroup, Marshal.

Trustees—John D. Dyer, Sam. Freeman, George Stultz, T. N. Armstrong, D. H. Turner.

CRESYLIC AND CARBOLIC SOAPS.

For some years past attempts have been made to employ that most powerful of known antiseptics "Carbolic Acid" to destroy the lower forms of insect and fungoid life that are so pernicious to animals, and all descriptions of vegetable life. But these attempts generally failed for lack of a proper medium through which to present the acid. After a series of experiments, however, combinations of the acid and soap were finally made, which have proved most valuable to the farmer, the fruit grower, the stock raiser, and indeed to agriculturists generally. They are known as "Carbolic and Cresylic Soaps," and the different varieties are adapted to as many uses, some being designed to heal sores, galls, scratches, ulcers, scab, foot-rot, etc., on animals, and others to destroy vermin, such as aphides, bark-lice, slugs, caterpillars, curculios, and indeed the whole host of minute but powerful enemies in the garden, the orchard, and the vineyard. They are designed not only to destroy insects that are on plants, but repel others from coming on them. For particulars regarding these soaps, apply to the "St. Louis Coal Tar Co., who will be happy to furnish Circulars on application.

VERNON CO. (MO.) AGR. SOCIETY.—The following are the officers of this Society: President, Harvey Karns. Secretary, John T. Birdseye. Treasurer, L. D. Roberts. Directors, Thos. H. Austin, Albert Badger, R. G. Bryan, J. L. Nichols, Enoch Yates. The Society proposes having a horse fair on April 7th, and the general fair on the 27th, 28th and 29th of Sept.

NOTICE.

On account of the great increase in our subscription list, which has been as gratifying as unexpected, the First and Second numbers for Volume 22, are entirely exhausted. We endeavored to provide an abundant supply of numbers for any ordinary increase of our subscription list; but we find we were many thousand numbers short, and we have been compelled to add to our edition from week to week—and if this wonderful increase of new subscribers continues, there is no telling where we shall stop.

MR. REAVIS' PAMPHLET.—Mr. L. U. Reavis has placed upon our table a copy of his long-talked-of pamphlet, entitled, "A Change of National Empire: or Arguments in favor of the Removal of the National Capitol from Washington City to the Mississippi Valley." It contains 170 pages, and treats of the subject under eleven distinct heads, as follows: The Old Government—The New Republic—National growth and material power—The demand for the change—The geographical, the population, the commercial, the political and the conclusive arguments—special and local considerations, and what time. Mr. Reavis has written as an enthusiast, and has collated a very interesting mass of matter bearing upon the topic, with arguments and deductions that exhaust the discussion on his side. Were the question simply one of location as an original act, instead of a removal, the facts and showing would be unanswerable. He has produced a work calculated to enhance the idea of the growing importance of St. Louis, and its future unmeasured capacity, which will inspire new pride and new energy into all who study it. It is illustrated by excellent maps, and will well repay attention. It is published by J. F. Torrey, Fifth street, opposite the Court House.

BOOK NOTICES.

THE AMERICAN GARDENER'S ASSISTANT, by Thos. Bridgeman.

THE AMERICAN FRUIT CULTURIST, by John J. Thomas.

The above-named works are published by William Wood & Co., 61 Walker street, New York, and are for sale at the bookstore of Mr. Peter Smith, No. 821 N. Fourth street, St. Louis.

The first is a new edition of an old and good work, in a more convenient form than the former editions. In the vegetable department several new articles and implements are introduced—but we are sorry that there is not at least a supplement bringing up the fruits and flowers to the present time. Such omissions at that of the Wilson's Albany among strawberries, and the Concord and Ives among grapes, show a great want as a reliable guide in all that pertains to the present state of things.

The second work is a new edition of an invaluable work, brought up to the wants of the times. It is one of the most clear, simple, orderly and complete works on our fruits that we have. Practical men use this as a hand-book of fruits; and amateurs will find it a most reliable work.

CABINET ORGANS.

The success of the Mason & Hamlin Organ Company, now the largest manufacturers of instruments of this class in the world, producing and finding a demand for an average of one hundred and twenty-five organs per week, illustrates what can be done by energetic and persevering pursuit of right principles in business. The following are what may be said to be Articles of their Constitution, kept always in view and never deviated from.

1. Excellence in the manufactured article must never be sacrificed to economy and cost. The best, only and always.

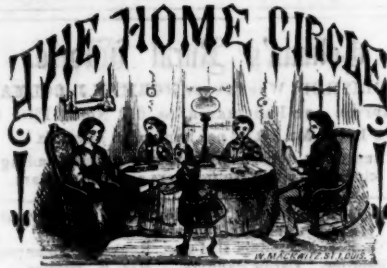
2. No degree of superiority shall be considered satisfactory as long as improvement is possible.

3. The use of every valuable invention and real improvement must be obtained, at whatever cost.

4. Productions to be sold at lowest possible prices; these to be printed and offered to all alike, thus dealing fairly and impartially with the public.

This Company have expended an immense amount in experiments for improvements, in which they have been greatly successful, developing, enlarging, improving and adding to the well known Melodeons of former times, until they have become the magnificent MASON & HAMLIN CABINET ORGANS of the present, to which was awarded the Paris Exposition Medal for superiority last year.

They have just introduced an important improvement, the MASON & HAMLIN IMPROVED VOX HUMANA, a beautiful invention, which is said to be as great an advance upon the Vox Humana already used as the Cabinet Organ is upon the Melodeon. They also announce important reduction in prices, offering their unequalled Organs at prices which are even less than those commonly demanded for inferior workmanship. This is the natural result of their greatly increased facilities for manufacture, and fixed rule to sell at smallest profit.



A COUNTRY HOME.

O! give me a home in the country wide
When the earth comes out as a blushing bride,
With her buds and flowers,
In the bright spring hours,
Her bridal song ringing, from fresh-leaved trees
And melody floats on the perfumed breeze.

In summer, a seat in a shady nook,
And close by the side of a cooling brook,
Where the violet grows;
Or the pale swamp rose,
Fainting and sick, neath the sun's searching beam,
Dips her fair petals in the cooling stream.

O! give me a home in the country wide,
In the golden days of the farmer's pride,
When his barns are filled
From the field he tilled,
And he feels that his yearly task is done:
Smiling at winter, he beckons him on.

O! give me a home in the country wide,
And a seat by the farmer's wood fireside,
Where the fire burns bright,
On a frosty night,
Where the talk, and the song, and the laugh are
free—
O! the farmer's home, is the home for me.

[Written for Colman's Rural World.]

The Importance of Early Instruction.

There are wicked men—by nature wicked—that is, born and bred wicked. Such men are hard to change; they generally go to their graves impenitent.

Then, there are some men that you cannot bend from a course of virtue. They seek it, and practice it, and all from choice. Such men are safe; you can rely upon them. Whatever they may be thought of in the church; outside of it, and in their dealings—they are considered Christians, and the men to rely upon.

There is not a neighborhood, we are glad to say, but has some such men—who do good from a matter of choice.

But, how was this brought about?

By early training. The child was taught to do so, and only so. This, therefore, is its nature or pleasure. Whatever flashes of temper it may have, these amount to but little; the heart, the basis, is right—and a wrong committed (in haste) would grieve, does grieve, and in every case. It must be rectified, and it is, in every, or nearly every, case.

The child was so; and how can the man be otherwise? He grows from the germ thus started. He grows because this is the direction; the life-blood which makes up the man. He may wander as far as he pleases—like the brook which is the fountain of the river, it is still part of its water, feeds the main stream, and names it.

But a better figure is this: Our early training is the leaven that leavens the whole lump, and it is of the nature of that leaven.

I am safe in the child that I know has had a good training. I make it a rule to inquire in that direction, if I wish to know the character

and future of the man. Apparently wicked at first, he will come back again to his first training. Our future is to be made up of the children that now are, and that are to be. As we direct them, so will be the nation, the community, the individual. It will thus be seen that the importance that leads all others is, the training of our children.

CAVERN UNDER ROCK ISLAND

From the Rock Island Argus, January 8.

We have the pleasure this evening of laying before our readers the result of one of the most thrilling and profoundly interesting subterranean expeditions ever attempted on this continent. It is nothing less than an underground passage way under Rock Island—the present site of the United States arsenal, and the discovery of antiquarian relics of the rarest and most interesting character.

The entrance to a large cave—as our home readers are doubtless aware—is plainly visible from the ferry landing, as well as other portions of our city bordering on the river bank, and although some ten feet in diameter at the entrance, it gradually diminishes in size until some 25 feet are reached, when it is with difficulty that a person can effect an entrance by crawling through the aperture, but when once fairly through, there is no difficulty in standing erect.

Until the recent interesting discoveries were made by the enterprising explorers, representing the scientific society, who are now sojourning in our city, this cave has never been known to be over 120 feet in depth, and has possessed nothing more than ordinary interest, except as having been thought by the stern old Sac warrior, Black Hawk, to have been the chosen abode of the Great Spirit that presided over their destinies. But upon close examination at the terminus of one of the darkest and most intricate recesses, a narrow cavity was discovered in the rock, and by the aid of a torch forced into it, an interior apartment was found, upon entering which, the party were enabled to explore the subterranean passage for a distance of nearly 1,000 feet. The main passage is some six feet in width and about nine in height, and is evidently a natural cavern, though in several places there are evidences of its having been widened, as chisel marks can be distinctly discovered on the walls—besides numerous small recesses at regular intervals of fifty feet which bear traces of having been hewn out of the massive solid rock.

The second corridor, leading from the main one, is very extensive—containing six ponderous pillars enwreathed with gorgeous decorations. Beyond this is a shorter entrance in which is the entrance to the *sanctum sanctorum*, and which contains one of the grandest collections of antiquarian curiosities ever discovered on this continent. It contains a huge pedestal in the centre, constructed of solid copper, upon which is erected a magnificent shrine, which, with its unique inscription, denotes the antiquity of its devotees. Surrounding it are the colossal figures of the twelve worshippers in kneeling posture, and quite contiguous to them is the symmetrical though diminutive figure of an Indian maiden, with a countenance of surpassing beauty, and strongly marked features, indicative of deep thought and wondering surprise, pointing with one hand to the expressive word engraven upon the wall—*Shao!*—indicating thereby that the end of their race is at hand. Above them all, on its projecting and crescent-shaped roof, are arranged in systematic precision, cross-bows, arrows, and other weapons in warlike profusion—reminding one of the ancient sons of Persia and Greece.

The atmosphere in this apartment is almost unfit to sustain animal life, being damp, heavy and very impure. The torches of the exploring party were several times extinguished, and the

persons having the expedition in charge barely escaped suffocation.

Immediately adjoining the room containing these wonders, is an obelisk of solid brass—some seven feet in height, beautifully sculptured on four sides. There are, in all, 21 small bas-reliefs, and above, below and between them is carved an inscription 76 lines in length. The whole is in the best state of preservation—scarcely a character of the inscription is wanting, and the figures are as sharp and well defined as if executed only a few days ago. One of the scenes represented, is a circle of the ancient aborigines sitting in council—with the all-potent pipe of peace performing its wonted circuit, while the fortunes of war and peace are being discussed in the presence of the white-winged presiding genius. Another scene represented a royal chieftain followed by his attendants—a prisoner is at his feet, while men are being introduced leading various animals and carrying ponderous cross-bows, javelins, and other weapons. The animals represented are the elephant, polar bear, lion, stag, and various kinds of monkeys. The ornaments delicately graven on the robes of the party, the tassels and fringes, the bracelets and armlets, the elaborate curls of the hair and beard, are all entire. One of the chiefs stands very erect and carries in his arms an animal resembling a chamois upon his right arm, and in his left hand a branch bearing fine flowers. Around his temples are a fillet adorned in front with a rosette. One of the other characters, in a tragical attitude, holds a square vessel, resembling a basket, in his left hand, and a drawn dagger in the right, while on his head is worn a rounded cap, at the base of which is a horn. The garments of both consist of a robe falling from the shoulders to the ankle, and a short tunic underneath, descending to the knee, and are richly and tastefully decorated with embroideries and fringes, whilst the hair and beard are arranged with study and taste. The limbs are delineated with peculiar accuracy, and the muscles and bones faithfully, though somewhat too strongly marked.

After proceeding farther the party reached a large room with a high arched roof, in which were the entrances to many other chambers.—This contained the crowning gem of the wonders—nothing less than a huge sarcophagus of copper, nine feet long and three feet in width, minutely sculptured, within and without, with several hundred figures representing an immense funeral procession and ceremonies relating to the deceased chieftain, with emblems and other devices. The lid was partially removed, and revealed a quantity of bones and javelins.

In one of the secluded corners of this apartment, and a few feet below the level of the floor, is the arched entrance to an unexplored chamber, approached by a narrow passage-way down through a hideous stone stairway. The party, after repeated efforts to effect an entrance, were obliged to abandon it. In plainly defined Indian characters it bears the significant inscription, "All hope abandon, ye who enter in," an admonition which, while it tended only to excite and increase the curiosity of the explorers, was wisely heeded.

The knowledge of this ancient and interesting race does not seem by any means to have been confined to statuary and sculpture. Their weapons, and the jewel ornaments with which their persons were adorned, though principally of copper, are, in some instances, finished with gold and silver, and carved in the most exquisite manner conceivable, indicating mechanical genius and scientific attainments of the highest order. The luxury and refinement of an enlightened civilization are clearly delineated in these mysterious images and devices, rather than the wretchedness, ignorance and superstitions of a semi-barbarous race, as eminent authors of the present age have surmised our country, previous to discovery by Columbus, to have been inhabited by.

At present the strictest vigilance is observed at the cave—no persons being allowed to enter it without permission from one or more of the explorers, who are all, at present, the favored guests of the Rodman House.

We congratulate the exploring party, and the scientific association they represent, for having, in defiance of the perils of the adventure, and the ruthless ravages of time, brought to light these monuments of ancient grandeur and magnificence; and our gratitude at being furnished for publication the details of researches so thrilling and astounding in their character, is only equalled by the absorbing interest which we feel confident our readers will experience in their perusal.

During the interval of proceeding further with their investigations, we understand it to be the intention of the party having the relics in their possession to ship the movable portion of them at once to New York, if permission from the War Department for their removal can be obtained.

Mutton, the Cheapest and Healthiest Meat.

EDS. RURAL WORLD: I often wonder why it is that farmers use mostly the meats for home consumption that are highest priced, and the most costly in their production. Pork is the principal and frequently the sole dependence for the family's yearly meat provision. At the same time, pork almost invariably commands the highest price per pound of any other domestic meat that enters into human consumption; and, to make the hog command this high price, which he brings, he must live at the "fountain head" and get the best that the farm produces. He must have the run of clover and grain fields while he is attaining his growth, and then be "topped out" with about 15 bushels of corn; so, when a nice and exact calculation is made, of the amount that his porkship has consumed, it will be perceived that pork is the most costly meat made on a farm. Next after pork, beef enters most largely into the yearly supply of farmers' fare. This is less costly, but still relatively very dear meat at present prices. Mutton is by many odds cheaper, but is seldom, if ever seen on farmers' tables; and, aside from its cheapness, its wholesomeness ought to recommend it. Let a stock buyer come around, and the chances are that he will find more sheep and cattle than he can purchase.

For several years past, fat mutton sheep that would net from 40 to 60 pounds of meat, have only brought from \$2 to \$3 from shearing time till winter; in addition to the meat, they would yield from 5 to 10 pounds of tallow, which is worth 10 cents a pound. The average value of the pelt and tallow has been about \$1, bringing the meat down to 2½ to 3½ cents per pound.—This is the meat that most farmers sell first, and are most anxious to get rid of. During the period referred to, beef has ranged from 6 to 9 cents and pork from 7 to 12 cents per pound, thus showing a difference greatly in favor of mutton. Now, would it not be better economy, to consume as much as possible of the lowest-priced and healthiest meat produced on the farm, and dispose of the high-priced and unhealthy meat?

But few persons refuse to partake of mutton, while most do of pork. Why can't two or more neighbors, during the hot weather of summer, so arrange as to have mutton at suitable inter-

vals, by halving or dividing it among themselves, and thus all have healthy and cheap meat? Or, if there be such as object to having meats slaughtered any other time than cold weather, why can't they pickle, or "corn," or dry it, as other meats are done? Now it occurs to me that almost every farmer might save a considerable item in this way in money, and lose no enjoyment in the way of his eating either; but, on the other hand, gain in both instances. H. B.

THY MOTHER.—Young man! thy mother is thy best earthly friend. The world may willingly do you many wrongs—thy mother never. The world may persecute you while living, and when dead, plant the ivy and the nightshade of slander upon your grassless grave—but thy mother will love and cherish you while living; and, if she survives you, will weep for you when dead, such tears as none but a mother knows how to weep. Love thy mother.

SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM.—Since we have schools for the benefit of incipient lawyers, doctors and clergymen, why should we not have a school for editors? Journalism has become as distinct and important a profession as either law, medicine, or divinity, and men need to be carefully and thoroughly educated for it. The ability to edit a newspaper is entirely distinct from the ability to write a leading article, and the possession of the one, by no means implies the possession of the other. An editor can become a master of the duties of his profession only by long experience; just as a lawyer can acquire a thorough knowledge of practice only by practice. Nevertheless, the law-school is of great benefit in teaching the student the rudiments, not only of law, but of practice; and a school of journalism could at least instruct the student in the true theory of editorial duty. Precisely how such a school should be conducted it would be very difficult to say, but there is manifestly not only room, but a real demand for it. We have an abundance of good newspaper writers, but a paucity of skillful editors. —*New-York World.*

The Housatonic (Mass.) Agricultural Society has voted to offer a premium for the best exhibition of velocipedes.

Fine white sewing silk is said to be on exhibition in Helena, Arkansas, made from cocoons raised in Phillips county.

There is much more injury done by admitting visitors into the rooms of invalids than is generally supposed. Keep your sick people cheerful but quiet.

FOOD AND DRINK FOR THE SICK.—Be careful to have everything you use very sweet and clean, as the sense of taste and smell are very sensitive in sickness. Never cook articles for the sick over a smoke or blaze, as it will thus impart a smoky taste. When the mixture is thick, stir often to prevent burning. Be very careful in putting in seasoning not to put in too much, as it is easy to add but not to subtract. Always have a clean towel, a clean handkerchief, and a clean waiter, when you present food or drink to the sick.

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FRUIT FARM FOR SALE.

I desire to sell my farm in Jefferson County, Mo.—There are about 110 acres, nearly all under new fence; about 70 acres under cultivation. There are between 7 and 8 acres of Concord and Virginia grape vines, 4 years old; an abundance of apples for two or three families; about 200 bearing peach trees and plums; 70 young pear trees; a young peach orchard; about 20,000 peach trees in nursery; 3 acres of bearing strawberries, &c. One good double log-house, which is weather-boarded, situated on the south end of the tract, with out-houses, &c. One new 1½ story frame house 16x24, with "L" 12x14, containing 6 fine rooms, a good cellar, 16x24x7; 2 large cisterns; also a large frame barn, 26x40, 18 feet posts; frame hog pen, with corn crib attached; chicken-house and other necessities; out-houses; plenty of springs for stock, &c., on north end of place. Will take \$4600 for it. Was offered twice that amount in Oct. 1867—but must sell now. Terms—half cash; the balance such terms as will suit purchaser. The farm is 2½ miles south-west of Bailey's Station—a good ridge road. Bailey's Station is on the I.M.R.R., 35 miles south of St. Louis. For further particulars apply to Capt. Wm. WALKER, on the premises, or to Col. N. J. Colman, Editor of the "Rural World," St. Louis. feb20-tf

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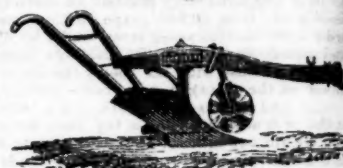
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Feb. 20.

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FLOUR—Firm; business light. Sales: 500 barrels choice at mill, \$10 50; 200 XXX, \$8 75; 200 X, \$6 25 @ 6 50.

RYE FLOUR—There is a light movement in the brands at \$6 50 @ 7; country neglected—nominal \$6 25 @ 6 50.

WHEAT—Spring opened active and firm; market dull, and about 2c easier for buyers. Sales: 1000 sacks fancy (for seed) \$1 50; 2,175 sacks choice No. 2, \$1 15; 153 sacks prime do \$1 34.

Winter—Ordinary choice easy for buyers; market scarce and stiff; medium still neglected; low grades scarce and wanted, at shade advanced offers for sized lots on outside account. Sales: White—1000 sacks prime, \$1 65; 52 sacks choice, \$1 90; 74 sacks fancy, \$2 04. Red—129 sacks choice, \$1 90; 38 sacks prime, \$1 60; 2 do and white, delivered, 64c; mixed white 300 sacks 72c.

CORN—Sales: In bulk—1 car yellow, in E. S. L. 60c; 2 do and white, delivered, 64c; mixed white 300 sacks 72c.

OATS—Aside from fancy black, suitable for feeding the market was dull and lower. Sales: 100 sacks 74c; 150 do, 73c; 313 sacks (choice) white, 68c.

BARLEY—Sales 125 sacks choice Minnesota, at \$1 30; Rye—Sales 37 sacks at \$1 30; 22 at \$1 32.

BUCKWHEAT—Sale 9 bbls at \$1 05.

HAY—No strictly choice here. Market slow and weak on common. Loose—1 car prime at \$2 40; 40 poor to do at \$2 30 @ 25 delivered. Tight—1 car good and prime at \$2 10 @ 22 50 delivered.

HEMP—Some 80 bales were received to-day—in part some of the new crop. No sales had transpired at the close of 'Change.

TOBACCO—For the offerings (new green legs and fillers) the demand was active and prices firm: 90 lbs: Stems, 25 @ 50c; scraps, \$2 @ 3 50; new green legs, \$4 50 @ 6; unround and common, old do, 40c; sound fillers do, \$8 @ 9 50; dark factory, dried fillers, \$9 @ 11; light colored do, \$11 @ 13; medium bright fillers, \$13 @ 16.

ONIONS—Sale 6 bbls silver skins at \$6 50.

HIDES—Slow, with brisk demand for Western taint, 23 1/2 @ 24c; dry salt, 19 @ 21c; green do, 11 1/2 @ 12c.

WOOL—Very firm, but little offering. We quote: Tub-washed, 53 @ 54c; do and picked, 54 @ 55c; unwashed, 37 @ 45c; unwashed, 27 @ 33c.

SEED—We quote flax at \$2 25. Sale 50 sacks \$3—a large advance; in demand. 20 sacks timothy (resales) at \$3 40—each including sacks.

EGGS—Inactive at 15 @ 17c, shipper's count and re-counted.

BUTTER—Roll neglected. Packed (choice) a better request, yet trade is almost at a stand. We quote: Inferior and common packed, 23 @ 25c; medium to choice do, 29 @ 33c to 34 @ 37c—choice selections 1 @ 2c higher; roll plenty, and very dull—regular at 23 @ 28c for low to fair, and 29 @ 30c prime to choice; extra wrapped do, 34 @ 35c.

POULTRY—With cool weather, more inquiry developed, but there was nothing of consequence offered. We quote chickens at \$5 50 @ 4 50; ducks and turkeys at 16 @ 18c @ lb. Sales of live: 100 chickens at \$5; 21 doz turkeys at \$18; 5 doz ducks at \$8.

SUGAR—Excited; held 2 @ 3c over quotations: Cuba, \$1 lb, 12 1/2 @ 13 1/2c; Porto Rico, 13 1/2 @ 14 1/2c; Java, 15 @ 16 1/2c; Louisiana, 12 1/2 @ 15c.

St. Louis Live Stock Market.

CATTLE—Receipts have been only moderate, and the market has been very quiet.

SHEEP—The demand has been only moderate and confined to local supplies.

HOGS—Offerings have been very light, and the demand has been restricted to the wants of city butchers. The following are the sales at the Pacific stock yards:

CATTLE—Receipts 126 head. Sales: 13 weighing 17,430 lbs, \$6 75; 80 weighing 80,250 lbs, \$5; 8 weighing 3,990 lbs, \$5 50; 1 weighing 1,050 lbs, \$4; 3 weighing 2,040 lbs, \$4 25; 3 weighing 2,520 lbs, \$4 1/2; 8 weighing 6,430 lbs, \$4 25; 46 weighing 53,420 lbs, \$6 50.

SHEEP—Receipts 150 head. Sales 71, \$3 50.

HOGS—Receipts 66 head. Sales 17, weighing 15 lbs, \$10.